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53. A method according to claim 52, wherein said mammal is a human.

54. A method according to claim 50, wherein said animal is a human. --

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed to amend the claims to conform with U.S. practice and to add new claims 21 through 54 drawn to subject matter described throughout the specification and in original claims 19 and 20, now canceled. No new matter has been added by this amendment and entry is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 20, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 19 and 20.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition for protection of an animal against a disease-causing agent, the composition comprising a non-infectious nucleic acid construct encoding a recombinant antibody to that agent.

2. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 1 wherein the animal is selected from a mammal or a fish.

3. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~either of~~ claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein the animal has a deficient immune system.

4. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the disease-causing agent is selected from a pathogen, an allergen or a toxic substance.

5. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the protection is prophylactic.

6. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the encoded recombinant antibody is derived from an antibody raised against the disease-causing agent.

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7. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the encoded antibody molecule comprises variable domains of immunoglobulin Heavy and Light chain genes linked together by a linker sequence.

8. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises a gene sequence encoding a secretion signal peptide.

9. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 comprising genes encoding antibody molecules to several different epitopes of the disease-causing agent.

10. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 comprising a gene-expression library encoding antibodies to the disease-causing agent.

11. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 10 wherein the gene expression library encodes single-chain antibody molecules to the disease-causing agent.

12. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the encoded recombinant antibody is a virus-neutralising antibody.

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13. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to claim 12 wherein the encoded virus-neutralising antibody is single chain molecule.

14. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 including a nucleic acid construct encoding a viral haemorrhagic septicaemia virus VHSV-neutralising monoclonal antibody 3F1H10 with two amino acids substituents in the H-chain gene respectively Asn 35a to Thr and Lys 64 to Thr and with the secretion signal of rainbow trout transforming growth factor (TGF-beta) added to the 5' end of the gene.

15. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any of claims 4 to 11~~ claim 6 wherein when the disease-causing agent is an allergen the antibody molecule is derived from an antibody raised against IgE molecules.

16. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid construct is formed from DNA.

17. (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the composition is in the form of a vaccine, dosage form, cream, ointment, liquid or paint.

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18. A (Amended) A ~~pharmaceutical~~ composition according to
~~any preceding claim~~ claim 17 wherein the composition is for
delivery by injection, spray or gene gun.

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